

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 28, 2004 (Paper No. 10). Claims 1 to 32 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Reverting again to the Information Disclosure Statement dated April 27, 2000, the Examiner is advised that the sole application cited therein has since issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,614,550. A copy thereof is enclosed for convenience.

Claims 1 to 4, 6, 7, 9 to 12, 14, 15, 17 to 20, 22, 23, 25 to 28, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,149,323 (Shima) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,768,483 (Maniwa). Claims 5, 13, 21 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shima and Maniwa, and further in view of JP 8-152985 (Hirose). Claims 8, 16, 24 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shima and Maniwa, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,429 (Takahashi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to the production of printing data based on document data produced by an application. More specifically, the present invention relates to the processing of printer settings. The present invention combines each value of a plurality of setting into a combined setting. When printer setting is performed via a setting sheet (e.g. a user interface), the present invention registers the combined setting in a combined setting list of a favorites database. A user is able to select one of the combined settings registered in the combined setting list. Each value of the plurality of setting items

of one combined setting is displayed in the setting sheet (e.g. a user interface) when the one combined setting is selected by the user.

In one aspect of the present invention, the combined setting is exportable as a setting file in response to an export instruction. In addition, setting files are importable in response to an import and instruction, and the combined setting of the imported setting file is added to the favorites database. In this way, exported setting files can be imported and used by different printer drivers.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 recites an information processing apparatus for producing printing data, which is interpretable by a printer, based on document data produced by an application. The apparatus comprises combined setting registration means for combining each value of a plurality of setting items into a combined setting to produce the printing data and for registering the combined setting by name in a combined setting list of a favorites database, wherein setting of the setting items is performed via a setting sheet. The apparatus also comprises selection means for selecting one of the combined settings registered in the combined setting list by designating a name of one of the combined settings, and display control means for controlling display of each value of the plurality of the setting items of one combined setting in the setting sheet when the one combined setting is selected by the selection means. The apparatus further comprises exporting and importing means for exporting the combined setting as a setting file in response to an export instruction, and for importing the setting file in response to an import instruction and adding the combined setting of the

imported setting file into the favorites database, wherein the exported setting file is importable by different printer drivers.

Independent Claims 9, 17 and 25 are method, storage medium and computer program code claims, respectively, and correspond generally to the apparatus of independent Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of exporting the combined setting as a setting file in response to an export instruction, and importing the setting file in response to an import instruction and adding the combined setting of the imported setting file into the favorites database, wherein the exported setting file is importable by different printer drivers.

The amendments to independent Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 incorporate, among things, the features of previously presented dependent Claims 5, 13, 21 and 29, respectively. In the rejection of Claims 5, 13, 21 and 29, the Office Action concedes that Shima does not disclose an information processing apparatus, wherein the registered combined setting is usable by different printer drivers. It also believed that Shima does not teach or disclose exporting and importing combined settings, or that exported setting files are importable by different printer drivers.

The Office Action contended, in the rejection of Claims 5, 13, 21 and 29, that Hirose teaches printer settings that are usable by different printers. Hirose is seen to teach a printer controller circuit 2 for controlling the print part 1 and plural printer drivers 3 for driving the printer control circuit 2, and at the same time, printer drivers 3a-3c are

different types of drivers (see Abstract). While Hirose is seen to teach the use of plural print drivers, Hirose is not seen to teach exporting combined settings as a setting file, importing the setting file, and adding the combined setting of the imported setting file in a favorites database.

The remaining art applied against the claims is not seen to supply what is missing from Shima and Hirose. Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are believed to allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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Respectfully submitted,


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